

# On Call Inside the Blue

A community news publication of the Arlington Police Department

## Arlington Police, U.S. Customs, DFW Airport Police, News Media and Tips!

### Caught! A Timely and Coordinated Response Lands Suspect in Jail

The perfect storm of events occurred last month after a hit and run suspect trying to flee the country was captured by authorities on an airport runway.

Omar Bashir Mohammed, age 25, was indicted by a Grand Jury on March 17 after failing to stop and render aid in a vehicle accident involving serious bodily injury. Seventy-three year-old Terry Pinkston, who was left wounded on the side of the street, continues to recover from his injuries at his Arlington home.

Three days after the hit and run crash on Feb. 15, an anonymous tip led police to the vehicle. It was Arlington police who quickly notified U.S. Customs and the Department of State that the driver of the vehicle could be a flight risk.

"The perfect storm of events was occurring," said Lt. Thomas Kiker with the APD Traffic

Division. "Internally, the dynamics of this case were abnormal. Timing and coordination were extremely critical as everything about this case began to come together."

Within hours, the Fugitives Unit received information from U.S. Customs and DFW Airport Police that the suspect in this case had boarded a plane on an international flight to Jordan. At approximately 9:30 p.m. on Feb. 18, the suspect was taken into custody and transported to the Arlington City Jail.



Following his capture, Lt. Christopher Cook thanked the local news media and the public who provided police with dozens of leads. APD used social media to share vehicle description information with Twitter followers and Facebook fans.

"Without the tips, this would have remained a challenging investigation for officers," Lt. Cook said.

In a Manager's Meeting this month, Police Chief Will Johnson gave kudos to the Traffic Unit, Fugitives Unit and Police Office of Communication for their work.

"Together, you led the team that bought justice to the family and to this community. Thank you for the outstanding work."

Looking for more great stories about good police work? Like us on Facebook.

## Annual Event Salutes Excellence in Policing

This year's Arlington Police Department Awards Luncheon was a tribute to the very best in community policing and service. More than 600 people gathered Feb. 27 at HighPoint Church for the ceremony that is sponsored annually by the Police Foundation Arlington, Texas and the John V. and Jeri McMillan family.

The Rec, an afterschool program that started two years ago in a church recreation center, was the recipient of the 2013 Business Partnership Award. The program is a safe place for free structured activities for Lamar High School students. Pastor Darrell Lanford, a youth and family minister at North Davis Church, accepted the Business Partnership Award.

Teresa Sims was honored as the 2013 recipient of the Citizens Community Award for her work with a program that offers adult English as a Second



Language classes. The program at Wesley United Methodist Church involves officers, retired teachers and college interns. Since it started in 2005, more than 4,500 residents have enrolled in these free classes and many have gained employment and become U.S. citizens after graduation.

Awards were presented to an Officer of the Year from each of the city's four police districts along with 14 other honorees.

(More on Page 4)



## Supporting Quality Education

High school students considering a career in law enforcement will soon be able to earn credits toward a criminal justice degree thanks to a new program supported by three of the region's largest public institutions.

On March 5, Police Chief Will Johnson and Mayor Robert Cluck joined AISD Superintendent Marcelo Cavazos and UT Arlington President Vistasp M. Karbhari to unveil the new Hometown Recruiting Program.

Through this program, APD is investing in Arlington youth to ensure that new generations of degreed officers will be trained and available to serve our community. Graduates are guaranteed an interview with APD upon completion of their UT Arlington degree and will be given preferred consideration, ensuring employment opportunities are available in upcoming police academy classes. [Read More.](#)



# On Call

## North District

### Everyone Together for Campus Safety

Dedicated to preventing violence and other crimes, Campus Edge Apartments recently hosted a safety meeting with apartment managers from neighboring communities, UT Arlington police officers and Arlington police.

Dating safety, drug and alcohol awareness, driving safety, and reporting suspicious activity were some of the main topics discussed by this group.

Officers shared crime statistics with apartment managers who are planning to host events such as student socials to help educate and spread the word about personal safety on campus.

Sgt. Michael Rodriguez with the UT Arlington Police Department shared information about the services provided by campus police.

The department provides campus escorts. They also have 200 call boxes on campus for emergencies. The UT Arlington Police Department also offers self-defense classes for women.

Together, we work to reduce and eliminate crime and safety hazards on campus. We achieve this goal by partnering with one another to ensure a safe and secure atmosphere where students are able to pursue their life's goals for a rewarding college experience at UT Arlington.



#### Campus Safety 101

- \* Keep close friends and family members informed when dating.
- \* Know your limits. NEVER drink and drive.
- \* Never leave your drink unattended.
- \* Avoid walking alone after dark. Stay in well-lit areas.
- \* Don't delay. Immediately report suspicious activity to police.



College apartment managers gather for safety presentation with APD and campus police.

### In the Community

It's baseball season! The **Texas Rangers Home Opener** is Monday, March 31. Game time is 1:05 p.m. against the Philadelphia Phillies. Go Rangers!

**Save the Date** - The Arlington Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association is planning a June 9 Golf Tournament. Visit [www.ACPAAA.net](http://www.ACPAAA.net) for more details.

On **Saturday, April 26**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., turn in your unused or expired medications for safe disposal on **National Drug Take Back Day**. [Click here](#) to find a drop off location near you or visit [www.Arlingtontx.gov](http://www.Arlingtontx.gov) for more information.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the North Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Kimberly Fretwell at 817-459-5589 or [Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Kim.Fretwell@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call

## South District

### Children and Parents Climb Aboard for Safety

The Arlington Police Department is proud of the many strong ties we maintain with our community partners. One of these great community partners is the Little Gym located at the Arlington Highlands in the South Police District.

The Little Gym recently hosted a Safety Fair, extending an invitation to the Arlington Police Department, Arlington Fire Department, Dispatch Services and other neighboring law enforcement agencies.

Little Gym members and their parents got the opportunity to take an up close look inside of a patrol car and fire truck. Everyone enjoyed having their photos taken with officers and firefighters. Tours were followed by sessions on stranger danger and lessons on how to call 9-1-1. Little Gym staff, parents and children who attended the Safety Fair were very thankful for the opportunity to interact with their local public safety personnel.

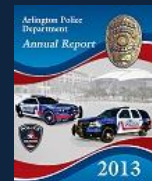


The Arlington Police Department is grateful to Little Gym for affording us this opportunity to come out and positively impact the lives of our future leaders in such a positive way.



At this Safety Fair on Jan. 31, a lot of great moments were captured in photos.

### In The Community



The 2013 Arlington Police Department Annual Report is

now available. Crime stats, community engagement initiatives, department awards, promotions, budget information and more. [Click here](#) to read it online.

Looking Ahead: **April is Child Abuse Prevention Month**. In Texas, more than 4 children die from child abuse or neglect every week and many more are confirmed victims. Report Child Abuse. [Click here](#) to get involved.

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight every month from the South Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Ray Polk at 817-459-6468 or [Ray.Polk@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Ray.Polk@Arlingtontx.gov).

# On Call

## East District

### This Month, More Crime Watch Groups Unite Against Crime



Crime Watch brings neighbors together.

February was a busy month filled with Crime Watch Meetings in the East Police District.

Community Watch meetings at Olympic Club Apartments and Green House Apartments were followed by four others. Four of the six Crime Watch Groups are new and the February meetings were their first.

Crime Watch meetings get residents more involved and more educated about safety. At meetings in February, Arlington police officers did a great job of talking with residents about the various ways to prevent crime and reduce the probability of them becoming victims in the future. Vehicle burglary prevention was also highlighted at these meetings.

On the evening of Feb. 12, more than 40 residents attended Crime Watch Meetings at the Olympic Club Apartments and Green House Apartment Complex. There was food and raffles for adults and children.

During these meetings, we also registered new residents for enrollment in the next Hispanic Citizens Police Academy.

We are always thankful to our Arlington officers who attend Crime Watch meetings and lead informative safety presentations. Thank you East Foot Patrol Officers Alex Vara, Jeff Lee and Aaron Oden, and East Patrol Officers Brandon Evans, Vince Orso and Stan Henry for your continued involvement and participation.



Every month, watch for a new crime prevention highlight from the East Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Natalie Kuehling at 817-459-5817 or [Maria.Kuehling@ArlingtonTx.gov](mailto:Maria.Kuehling@ArlingtonTx.gov).

### In The Community

Would you like to start a **Community Watch Group** in your neighborhood?

[Click here](#) for all you need to get a group started or call 817-459-5725.

The **Apartment Managers** will meet April 4 at the East Police Service Center.

AT&T Stadium will host the **Men's Final Four April 4-7**.

The **Victory Over Violence Run on April 12** benefits the anti-violence programs of the Tarrant county Women's Center. Join us. [Click here](#) for registration details or visit [www.vovfw.org](http://www.vovfw.org).

# On Call

## West District

### Wimbish Elementary Benefits From Two of Our Best

The West Police District has many dedicated officers who make a positive impact in their communities every day, but Foot Patrol Officers Robert Robertson and Andrea Davis seem to go the extra mile.

Inside Wimbish Elementary School, these officers are building a special rapport with students. They are shedding a different light on police officers. Many times, the only interaction children have with police officers is when something tragic occurs.

Officers Robertson and Davis are helping to build a solid foundation for success in every child they encounter in this school. They spend a couple of hours a day, three days a week, interacting with students

and participating in fun-filled learning activities. During a recent activity, they took time to show students how officers use a speed measuring

device to record a vehicle's speed so that neighborhood streets and highways are safer to travel. They have also planned and worked on science experiments together.

Activities like this help to tear down the walls that may exist between our youth and police officers.

A special thanks to Officers Robertson and Davis for all the good things you're doing in our communities while making our youth a priority.



Officer Robertson



Officer Davis

### In The Community

Congratulations! The **Waterwood Estates Community Watch** will meet April 14 in the Community Room of the West Police Service Center.

#### NEW on Social Media!

On Facebook, the Arlington Police Department introduces "Furrever Home Friday." Become a responsible pet owner. Help an animal who needs a forever home. A new pet is featured each week!

Watch for a new crime prevention highlight each month from the West Police District.

For more information, contact Crime Prevention Officer Doug Glotfelty at 817-459-6072 or [Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov](mailto:Doug.Glotfelty@Arlingtontx.gov).



# Annual Police Awards Luncheon Celebrates Excellence



The Rec is the recipient of the 2013 Business Partnership Award.



Teresa Sims is the recipient of the 2013 Citizen Community Award.



Rookie Officer of the Year Haley Thedford celebrates with family.

## Congratulations!

Supervisor of the Year  
**Tim Pinckney**

Officer of the Year  
**Caleb Blank**

Community Support Officer of the Year  
**Richard Morrison**

Operations Officer of the Year  
**Jason Vire**

Rookie of the Year  
**Haley Thedford**

[Click here to see more award highlights.](#)



The 2013 Officer of the Year is Caleb Blank.



Officers applaud the achievements of others at the Annual Awards Luncheon sponsored by the Police Foundation of Arlington and the John V. and Jeri McMillan family. This event also received support from local business community as well. *Thank you!*

## Iraqi Law Enforcement Delegation Studies Arlington PD

The Arlington Police Department recently hosted an Iraqi law enforcement delegation representing the three Kurdish provinces of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah.

Sponsored by the Iraqi Police Education Program and funded by the U.S. Department of State, nine delegates took part in classroom-style presentations that allowed them to study many aspects of the department, including Crime Scene Investigations, the Aviation Unit and Tactical Unit.

The delegates also explored cultural aspects of the community, visiting the JFK Memorial in Dallas, attending a rodeo in Fort Worth and touring AT&T Stadium. Led by Major Nariman

Oadir, delegates also visited a mosque and participated in Friday prayer services. They also met with Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck and Police Chief Will Johnson.

This is not the first time APD has been called on to share best practices. APD has hosted law enforcement delegates from Panama City and Poland.

Through programs like this, we are given a unique opportunity to showcase all the great things that make the Arlington Police Department one of the most respected law enforcement agencies in the country.



Members of Arlington's SWAT team with Iraqi law enforcement.



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